अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांना देण्यात येणा-या भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत केंद्र शासनाने सन २०२०-२१ ते २०२५-२६ या कालावधीकरीता जारी केलेल्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना राज्यात लागू करण्याबाबत.

महाराष्ट्र शासन
सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य विभाग
शासन निर्णय क्रमांकः भासशी-२०२१/प्र.क्र.१५६/शिक्षण-१
मंत्रालय विस्तार भवन, मुंबई - ४०० ०३२
दिनांक : ७ जुलै, २०२३

वाचा :-

१) शासन निर्णय, सा.न्या.व वि.स.वि., क्र. इबीसी-२०११/प्र.क्र.४/शिक्षण-१, दि.२.८.२०११
२) शासन शुध्दीपत्रक, सा.न्या.व वि.स.वि.,क्र.इबीसी-२०११/प्र.क्र.४/शिक्षण-१, दि.१८.९.२०१८
३) सामाजिक न्याय व अधिकारीता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार यांचेमार्फत माहे मार्च, २०२१ मध्ये निर्गमित केलेल्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना.
४) शासन निर्णय, सा.न्या.व वि.स.वि., क्र. भासशी -२०२२/प्र.क्र.७४/शिक्षण-१, दि.१७.३.२०२२

प्रस्तावना :-

अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील मुला-मुलींनी उच्च शिक्षण घेणे, त्यांच्या गुणवत्तेत वाढ करणे आणि डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर यांचा आदर्श घेऊन उच्चविद्याविभुषित होणे, हा उद्देश ठेऊन अनुसूचीत जाती (नवबौध्दासह) विद्यार्थ्याकरीता भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती योजना सन १९५९-६० पासून राबविण्यात येत आहे. सदर योजनेअंतर्गत अनुसूचीत जाती (नवबौध्दासह) प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांना निर्वाह भत्ता दिला जातो व संबंधीत शैक्षणीक संस्थेस शिक्षण फी व परीक्षा फी अदा केली जाते. या योजनेअंतर्गत दिनांक १८.०९.२०१८ च्या शासन निर्णयान्वये पालकांची उत्पन्न मर्यादा २.०० लाखावरून २.५० लाख करण्यात आलेली आहे.

२. केंद्र शासनाने माहे मार्च, २०२१ मध्ये निर्गमीत केलेल्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचनांमधील तरतूदीनुसार शैक्षणिक वर्ष २०२१-२२ पासून सुधारीत निधी वितरण कार्यपध्दती राज्यभरात अवलंबवयाची आहे. त्याचबरोबर केंद्र शासनाच्या दिनांक ०१.११.२०२१ च्या पत्रान्वये सूचित केल्याप्रमाणे सुधारीत वितरण कार्यपध्दतीचा राज्यात अवलंब न केल्यास सदरहू शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत राज्य शासनास अनुज्ञेय असलेले केंद्रीय अनुदानाची (केंद्र हिस्सा ६०%) अदायगी करता येणार नाही. तसेच त्या त्या आर्थिक वर्षात प्राप्त होणारे केंद्रीय अनुदान अखर्चित राहिल्यास पुढील आर्थिक वर्षात खर्च करणेसाठी पुनर्विनियोजन करता येणार नाही असे देखील सूचित करण्यांत आलेले आहे. सदर बाब विचारात घेता केंद्र शासनाच्या भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेच्या माहे मार्च, २०२१ मध्ये निर्गमित केलेल्या सन २०२०-२१ ते २०२५-२६ साठीच्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचनांमधील निधी वितरणाशी संबंधीत मुद्दा क्र.१०.१, ११.१ व ११.२ पुरता मर्यादीत शासन निर्णय दिनांक १७.३.२०२२ रोजी विभागामार्फत निर्गमीत करण्यात आलेला असून त्यान्वये भारत सरकार पोस्ट मॅट्रीक शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेअंतर्गत केंद्र-राज्य हिश्श्याचे सूत्र स्विकारण्यात आले आहे व

त्याचबरोबर केंद्र शासनाच्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचनांमधील शिष्यवृत्तीच्या वितरण प्रणालीस देखील मान्यता देवून ती स्विकारण्यात आलेली आहे.

३. सामाजिक न्याय व अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार यांनी अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत सन २०२०-२१ ते २०२५-२६ या कालावधीकरीता माहे मार्च, २०२१ पासून सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना जारी केलेल्या आहेत सदर मार्गदर्शक सूचना राज्यात लागू करण्याची बाब शासनाच्या विचाराधिन होती.

शासन निर्णय :-

उपरोक्त प्रस्तावनेत नमुद केल्याप्रमाणे सामाजिक न्याय व अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार यांनी अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत सन २०२०-२१ ते २०२५-२६ या कालावधीकरीता माहे मार्च, २०२१ पासून जारी केलेल्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना, सोबत जोडलेल्या परिशिष्टात नमुद ठळक मुद्यांसह राज्यात लागू करण्यास मान्यता देण्यात येत आहे.

२. सदरहू योजनेसाठी येणारा खर्च मागणी क्र. एन-३ (०४) शिष्यवृत्ती आणि विद्यावेतने, (०४) (१६) भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती, (केंद्रपुरस्कृत १०० टक्के), (कार्यक्रम), ३४, शिष्यवृत्त्या/विद्यावेतने, (**लेखाशीर्ष- २२२५ ०४९५**) मागणी क्र.एन-३(०४) शिष्यवृत्त्या आणि विद्यावेतने, (०४) (०१) भारत सरकारच्या मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्त्या (कार्यक्रम) ३४, शिष्यवृत्त्या/विद्यावेतने लेखाशीर्ष (**२२२५ ०३५२)** या लेखाशिर्षाखाली खर्ची टाकण्यांत येऊन त्याखाली केलेल्या तरतूदीतून भागविण्यात यावा.

३. सदरहू शासन निर्णय महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या www.maharashtra.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करण्यात आला असून त्याचा संगणक संकेताक २०२३०७०७१७१७१६६७२२ असा आहे. हा आदेश डिजीटल स्वाक्षरीने साक्षांकित करुन काढण्यात येत आहे.

महाराष्ट्राचे राज्यपाल यांच्या आदेशानुसार व नावाने.

SOMNATH NAMDEO BAGUL

Digitally signed by SOMNATH NAMDEO BAGUL
DN: c=IN, o=GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, ou=GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, 2.5.4.20=b01714c1480a47cec5943a1c3c73ea95af0534418cf92d1ac844331c4116879d, postalCode=400032, st=Maharashtra, serialNumber=4807C89831881EDE55B0D82CB9991539D1BD33C6F8A64931D9194D5E2CBDCF56, cn=SOMNATH NAMDEO BAGUL
Date: 2023.07.07 17:26:22 +05'30'

(सो.ना.बागुल)
सह सचिव, महाराष्ट्र शासन

प्रति,

१. मा.मुख्यमंत्री यांचे अपर मुख्य सचिव
२. अपर मुख्य सचिव, सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य विभाग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई
३. अपर मुख्य सचिव / प्रधान सचिव / सचिव, सर्व मंत्रालयीन विभाग
४. मा.मंत्री (सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य) यांचे खाजगी सचिव, मंत्रालय, मुंबई
५. मा.राज्यमंत्री (सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य) यांचे खाजगी सचिव, मंत्रालय, मुंबई
६. आयुक्त, समाजकल्याण आयुक्तालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, पुणे.

७. संचालक, लेखा व कोषागारे, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई
८. महालेखापाल, (लेखा व अनुज्ञेयता) (लेखा परीक्षा) महाराष्ट्र १/२, मुंबई/नागपूर.
९. जिल्हा कोषागार अधिकारी, पुणे
१०.उपसचिव (अर्थसंकल्प)/(विघयो), सा.न्या.व वि.स.वि., मंत्रालय, मुंबई
११.उपसचिव (शिक्षण-१), सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य विभाग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई
१२.सर्व सहायक आयुक्त / प्रादेशिक उपायुक्त, समाजकल्याण, पुणे
१३.निवडनस्ती (का.शिक्षण-१)

अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांना देण्यात येणा-या भारत सरकार मॅट्रीकोत्तर शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत सन २०२०-२१ ते २०२५-२६ या वर्षांकरीता केंद्र शासनाने जारी केलेल्या सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना लागू करण्याबाबत

(शासन निर्णय क्रमांक : भासशी-२०२१/प्र.क्र.१५७/शिक्षण-१, दिनांक : ७ जुलै,२०२३ सोबतचे)

परिशिष्ट

१. राज्य शासनाच्या महाडीबीटी पोर्टल अंतर्गत सदर योजना राबविण्यांत येत असून याबाबत राज्य शासनाच्या दि. ८ जानेवारी, २०१९ च्या शासन निर्णयानुसार महाविद्यालयांसंबंधीत मान्यता, नोंदणी (NAAC/ NBA accreditation), अभ्यासक्रमाची मान्यता, महाविद्यालयांची मान्यताप्राप्त विद्यार्थी क्षमता, अभ्यासक्रमाची मान्यता प्राप्त शुल्क रचना इत्यादी सर्व बाबींची पडताळणी व खातरजमा करुन संबंधित शैक्षणिक विभाग (उदा. उच्च व तंत्र शिक्षण विभाग, वैद्यकीय शिक्षण व औषधी द्रव्ये, उच्च व तंत्र शिक्षण विभाग, कृषी विद्यापीठे, राज्य शिक्षण शुल्क समिती इ.) व तत्सम सक्षम प्राधिकृत यंत्रणेने महाडीबीटी प्रणालीमध्ये समावेश करावयाची जबाबदारी निश्चित करण्यांत आली आहे. सामाजिक न्याय विभागांतर्गत केवळ समाजकार्य महाविद्यालयांबाबतच उपरोक्तबाबींची पडताळणी व खातरजमा करुन प्रणाली मध्ये समावेश करावयाची जबाबदारी विभागाची राहील.

२. विद्यार्थ्यांच्या प्रत्यक्ष हजेरीबाबतची अट शैक्षणिक वर्ष २०२३-२४ पासून अवलंबविण्यात येत आहे.

३. सर्व महाविद्यालयांनी त्यांचा प्रत्येक शैक्षणिक वर्षाचा वार्षीक लेखापरिक्षण अहवाल राज्य शासनास सादर करणे आवश्यक आहे. अन्यथा त्यांना देय असणा-या सर्व बाबी लेखापरिक्षण अहवाल सादर करेपर्यंत स्थगीत ठेवण्यात येतील.

४. सदर योजना ही सुधारीत नियमावलीतील अ.क्र. ४.२ मध्ये नमुद सर्व संवर्गातील शैक्षणीक संस्थांना अ.क्र. ५.९ मध्ये नमुद तसेच नियमावलीतील इतर अटी शर्थीची पुर्तता करीत असलेल्या संस्थांना लागु करण्यात येत आहे.

५. **विविध शैक्षणीक उपक्रमाव्दारे देण्यात येणा-या शिक्षण पध्दतीमध्ये वयोमर्यादेची अट ठेवण्यात आलेली नाही. सदर बाब विचारात घेता एक अभ्यासक्रम – एक शिष्यवृत्ती असे धोरण स्विकारण्यात येत आहे.**

६. सद्यस्थितीत स्वतंत्र ऑनलाईन अभ्यासक्रम राबविणेबाबत शासनाच्या कोणत्याही विभागाचे धोरण निश्चित झालेले नाही. सबब ऑनलाईन शिक्षण राबविणेबाबत संबंधीत शैक्षणिक विभागांचे धोरण निश्चित झाल्यानंतरच ऑनलाईन अभ्यासक्रमांचा समावेश करण्यांत येईल. परंतू सदर योजनेचा लाभ केवळ राज्य शासनाची मान्यता प्राप्त विद्यापीठे / केंद्रीय विद्यापीठांतर्गत दुरस्थ व सलग शिक्षण घेत असलेल्या अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांना अनुज्ञेय राहील.

७. योजनेच्या लाभाचे वितरण प्राधान्याने आधारसंलग्नीकृत बँक खाते असलेल्या लाभार्थ्यांनाच देण्यांत यावे.

८. ज्या अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या कुटुंबाचे वार्षिक उत्पन्न २.५० लाख व त्यापेक्षा कमी आहे अशा सर्व विद्यार्थ्यांना सदर योजना अनुज्ञेय राहिल. मात्र याकरीता राज्य शासनाने खालील प्रमाणे

प्राधान्यक्रम निश्चित करुन लाभार्थ्यांची निवड करणे आवश्यक आहे.

अ) सामाजिक आर्थीक सर्वेक्षण, २०११ (SECC-२०११) मधील वंचित घटकांसाठी निर्धारीत केलेल्या एकूण ७ निकषांपैकी किमान ३ वा त्यापैकी अधीक निकषांची पुर्तता करणा-या अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील कुटुबातील विद्यार्थी.

आ) अनुसूचित जाती कुटुंबातील एक किंवा दोन्ही पालक निरक्षर असलेल्या कुटुंबातील विद्यार्थी.

इ) राज्य शासनाच्या मान्यताप्राप्त शाळा, नगरपरिषद, महानगरपालिका, स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्था यांच्या मान्यताप्राप्त शाळांमधून इ.१० वी उत्तीर्ण अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गातील विद्यार्थी.

तसेच या प्रकारचे निवडीचे प्राधान्यक्रम अवलंबण्याकरीता जिल्हास्तरावरील सहाय्यक आयुक्त, समाज कल्याण कार्यालयांतर्गत यंत्रणा चालू शैक्षणिक वर्षापासून नव्याने कार्यरत करण्याबाबत आयुक्त, समाजकल्याण, पुणे यांनी याबाबत पुढील कार्यवाही करावी.

९. विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रवेश घेताना वा शिष्यवृत्तीसाठी अर्ज करताना येणा-या अडचणी विचारात घेता व याबाबतची कार्यवाही विहीत वेळेत पुर्ण होण्याच्या दृष्टीकोनातून जिल्हास्तरावर जिल्हा समाजकल्याण अधिकारी कार्यालय व सहायक आयुक्त कार्यालय तसेच प्रादेशिक उपायुक्त कार्यालय आणी आयुक्तालय स्तरावर विद्यार्थ्यांना विविध शिष्यवृत्ती योजनांची माहीती देणे व त्यासंबधात उद्भवणा-या अडचणींचे निराकरण करण्यासाठी संबंधित कार्यालयातील उपलब्ध कर्मचा-य़ांमधूनच एका कर्मचा-याची समुपदेशक म्हणून संबंधीत कार्यालय प्रमुखांनी नियुक्ती करावी.

१०. सदर योजनेअंतर्गत विद्यार्थ्यांना द्यावयाच्या निर्वाह भत्त्याचे सुधारीत दर पुढीलप्रमाणे आहेत :-

गट	वार्षिक निर्वाह भत्ता (रुपये) (वसतीगृहात राहणारे विद्यार्थी)	वार्षिक निर्वाह भत्ता (रुपये) (वसतीगृहात न राहणारे विद्यार्थी)
गट-१	१३,५००	७,०००
गट-२	९,५००	६,५००
गट-३	६,०००	३,०००
गट-४	४,०००	२,५००

१) दिव्यांग लाभार्थ्यांकरीता उपरोक्त निर्वाहभत्त्यामध्ये १० टक्के अधिक दर अनुज्ञेय राहील.

२) C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. या अभ्यासक्रमांना प्रवेशित विद्यार्थ्यांना केवळ वसतिगृहात न राहणा-या विद्यार्थ्यांचेच दर लागू राहतील.

३) दूरस्थ / ऑनलाईन शिक्षण घेणा-या विद्यार्थ्यांना कोणतेही निर्वाह भत्ते लागू होणार नाहीत.

उपरोक्त दर हे शैक्षणिक वर्ष २०२१-२२ पासून लागू करण्यांत यावेत.

११. योजनेंतर्गत विद्यार्थ्यांना द्यावयाच्या निर्वाह भत्त्याचे दर हे केंद्र शासनामार्फत वेळोवेळी जाहीर / निर्धारीत केलेल्या दरानुसार अद्ययावत करण्यात येतील.

१२. अनुसूचित जाती प्रवर्गाच्या विद्यार्थ्यांने ज्या दिवशी अभ्यासक्रमास प्रवेश घेतलेला आहे त्याच दिवशी किंवा शासन जाहीर करेल त्यादिवसापर्यंत सदर योजनेकरीता ऑनलाईन अर्ज करणे आवश्यक आहे. सदर प्रक्रीयेमध्ये संबधीत महाविद्यालयाने प्रवेशीत विद्यार्थ्यांचे अर्ज त्यांनी ज्या दिवशी प्रवेश घेतलेला आहे त्याच दिवशी ऑनलाईनरित्या भरून घेणे व त्यासंबंधीत इतर कार्यवाही करणे आवश्यक आहे. अन्यथा याबाबत भविष्यात काही अडचण निर्माण झाल्यास संबंधीत महाविद्यालयास जबाबदार धरण्यात येईल.

१३. सदर सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना या सन २०२०-२१ पासून सन २०२५-२६ पर्यंत लागू राहतील. याकरिता सन २०२०-२१ या वर्षाचे केंद्रीय अनुदान निश्चित करण्याकरीता मागील तीन वर्षे (२०१७-१८ ते २०१९-२०) या कालावधीची सरासरी वार्षीक मागणी निश्चित करुन सन २०२०-२१ व त्यापुढील वर्षांकरीता निश्चित केलेल्या मागणीच्या ५ टक्के अतिरिक्त निधी प्रत्येक वर्षी केंद्र शासनाच्या प्रोजेक्ट ॲप्रेझल कमिटी (PAC) यांचेकडून वार्षीक नियोजनाला मान्यता प्राप्त झाल्यावर त्या त्या वर्षात ६०: ४० या प्रमाणात निश्चित करण्यांत येईल.

१४. सदरहू शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत मंजूर झालेली शिष्यवृत्तीचे वितरणाबाबत शासन निर्णय दिनांक १७ मार्च,२०२२ अन्वये स्विकारण्यात आलेले पुढील सूत्र अंतीम करण्यात येत आहे. केवळ केंद्र हिश्शाची संपूर्ण रक्कम (६० टक्के) म्हणजेच महाविद्यालयाला देय असलेले सर्व प्रकारचे नापरतावा शुल्क, (शिक्षण शुल्क, परिक्षा शुल्क, इतर शुल्क इत्यादी.) तसेच विद्यार्थ्यांना अनुज्ञेय निर्वाह भत्ता व इतर अनुज्ञेय शुल्क / भत्ते इत्यादी रक्कम थेट विद्यार्थ्याच्याच आधार संलग्नीकृत बँक खात्यामध्ये जमा होणार असून सदरहू केंद्र हिस्सा विद्यार्थ्याच्या बँक खात्यामध्ये जमा झाल्यानंतर विद्यार्थ्यास अनुज्ञेय असलेला निर्वाह भत्ता वजा जाता उर्वरीत महाविद्यालयास देय असलेली रक्कम विद्यार्थ्याने पुढील सात दिवसांच्या आत महाविद्यालयास जमा करणे अनिवार्य करण्यात येत आहे. पंरतू सदरहू शिष्यवृत्ती योजनेंतर्गत मंजूर झालेली राज्य हिश्श्याच्या रकमेबाबत राज्य शासनाची प्रचलीत कार्यपध्दती कायम ठेवण्यात येत आहे. योजनेंतर्गत वितरीत होणारा लाभ हा केवळ डायरेक्ट बेनिफीट ट्रान्सफर (डीबीटी) व्दारेच देण्यात येणार असून त्याची अन्य कोणत्याही पध्दतीने अदायगी करण्यात येणार नाही.

१५. सदर योजनेकरीता ऑनलाईन प्रणालीवर केवळ नोंदणी करण्याकरीता, शैक्षणिक वर्षामध्ये कोणत्याही मुदत कालावधीचे बंधन नाही. लाभार्थ्याला चालू शैक्षणिक वर्ष संपेपर्यंत प्रणालीवर प्राथमिक नोंदणी करता येण्यास सुविधा उपलब्ध करून देण्यात येत आहे.

१६. सदर योजनेचा लाभ हा डायरेक्ट बेनिफीट ट्रान्सफर (डीबीटी) व्दारेच देण्यात येणार असल्याने लाभार्थ्याच्या अर्जाचे नुतनीकरण करण्याकरीता आधार क्रमांक असणे व ते त्यांच्या खात्यास जोडलेले असणे आवश्यक आहे. व सदरची जबाबदारी संपुर्णत: विद्यार्थ्याची असून त्यांनी त्यांचे बॅक खाते, दुरध्वनी क्रमांक आधारकार्डाशी संलग्न करणे आवश्यक आहे.

१७. प्रतीवर्षीच्या शिष्यवृत्तीच्या अर्जाचे नुतनीकरण करण्याकरीता विद्यार्थ्याचा मागील वर्षाचा समाधानकारक प्रगती अहवाल व मागील वर्षाची किमान ७५ टक्के उपस्थिती असणे आवश्यक आहे.

१८. राज्य शासनामार्फत प्रतिवर्षी माहे एप्रिल पासून सदर योजनेचा व्यापक प्रचार व प्रसिध्दी जास्तीत जास्त खपाच्या दैनिक वृत्तपत्रातून व राज्य शासनाच्या विविध वेबसाईट / पोर्टलवरुन राज्यभरात करण्यात येईल. तसेच सदर योजनेची महाविद्यालयस्तरावरील व्यापक प्रचार व प्रसिध्दीची जबाबदारी संबंधीत महाविद्यालयांवर निर्धारीत करण्यात येत असून त्यासाठी त्यासाठी त्यांनी वेळोवेळी कार्यशाळा / शिबिरे आयोजीत करावीत.

१९. सदर योजनेच्या परिणामकारक अंमलबजावणीच्या दृष्टीने व तिचा लाभ राज्यातील शेवटच्या विद्यार्थ्यास मिळवून देण्याच्या दृष्टीने चालू वर्षापासून सदर योजनेच्या कार्यसफलतेचे मुल्यमापन करण्याकरीता आयुक्त, समाजकल्याण, महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांनी राज्यातील सामाजिक परिक्षण कक्षाच्या मदतीने राज्यस्तरावर / प्रादेशिक स्तरावर स्वतंत्र यंत्रणा कार्यान्वीत करावी. यामध्ये जिल्हयातील किमान १० टक्के महाविद्यालये अथवा विद्यार्थी यांचा समावेश असावा. सदर यंत्रणेने त्यांचा मासीक अहवाल शासनास सादर करावा.

२०. सदर योजनेचा लाभ घेणा-या कोणत्याही विद्यार्थ्यांची कोणतीही कागदपत्रे अथवा माहिती असत्य आढळल्यास तो लाभार्थी या योजनेच्या लाभापासून कायमस्वरुपी अपात्र ठरविण्यांत येईल. त्याचबरोबर विद्यार्थ्याने ज्या अभ्यासक्रमास प्रवेश घेतला आहे तो अभ्यासक्रम त्याने पूर्ण करणे आवश्यक आहे. जर त्याने शासनाच्या परवानगी शिवाय अभ्यासक्रम अर्धवट सोडला किंवा त्या अभ्यासक्रमाचा प्रवेश रद्द केला अथवा महाविद्यालय बदलले आणि सदरहू बाब महाविद्यालयाने शासनाच्या निदर्शनास आणून दिली तर अशा परिस्थितीत लाभार्थ्याने त्या अभ्यासक्रमास घेतलेली शिष्यवृत्ती तात्काळ खंडीत करुन त्याची वसुली शासनातर्फे करण्यांत येईल. अशा परिस्थितीत लाभार्थ्याने त्या अभ्यासक्रमास घेतलेली शिष्यवृत्ती तात्काळ शासनास परत करावयाची आहे.

२१. सदरहू सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचनांमध्ये काही बदल करावयाचा असल्यास त्याबाबत केंद्र शासनाचा निर्णय अंतीम राहील.

सत्यमेव जयते
Goverment Of India

GUIDELINES

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS

TO THE STUDENTS BELONGING TO

SCHEDULED CASTES

FOR STUDIES IN INDIA

(2020-2021 to 2025-26)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment

(March, 2021)

STUDIES IN INDIA (PMS-SC)
(With effect from 2020-2021)

1. Objective

1.1 The objective of the scheme is to appreciably increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC students in higher education with a focus on those from the poorest households, by providing financial assistance at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.

2. Scope

2.1 These scholarships are available for studies in India only and the awardees are selected by the State Government/Union Territory to which the applicant actually belongs (i.e. the State/UT in which permanently settled or domiciled, as per the terms of domicile decided by the State).

2.2 This is applicable to all the students who are currently beneficiaries of the scheme as well as fresh admissions.

3. Definitions

a) "***Group 1: Degree and Post Graduate level professional courses***" shall mean: all Professional courses in Medicine, Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance /Administration, Computer Science/ Applications (ii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of Management & Medicine(iii) C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. etc. (iv) M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Programmes (D.Lit., D.Sc. etc.) of Group I, Group II and Group III courses.(v) L.L.B, Integrated L.L.B, L.L.M

b) "***Group 2: Other Professional Courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate***" shall mean all Professional Courses leading to Degree, M Ed. / M. Pharma., Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B Pharma.), Nursing(B Nursing), BFS, other para-medical branches like rehabilitation, diagnostics etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/Tourism/Hospitality Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition& Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2) and

Vocational stream, ITI courses and Polytechnic where entrance qualification is Class XII or above.

c) "***Group 3: Graduate and Post Graduate course***" shall mean: courses not covered under Group 1& Group 2 e.g. B.A / B.Sc. / B.Com etc. M.A/ M. Sc./ M.Com etc.

d) "***Group 4: All post-matriculation (Post Class X level) non-degree courses***" shall mean: All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. Senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.

Note: The list of courses in various groups is indicative and States/UTs may add courses as per laid down standard in the State/UT.

e) "***Compulsory non-refundable fees***" shall mean**:** fee payable for enrolment/registration, tuition, games, Union, Library, Magazine, Medical Examination and such other fees compulsorily payable by the scholar to the institution or University/ Board, but does not include Refundable deposits like caution money, security deposit will, however, be excluded.

f)***"Demand"*** for a year indicates the total fund requirement for release of scholarship to all eligible students under the scheme as per the entitlements for that **particular year.**

g) **"Freeship Card"** shall mean: A card issued by the State Govt./UT Administration that entitles a student eligible for scholarship under this Scheme, to take admission in an institution, without pre-payment of tuition fee and hostel fee.

4. Eligibility of Educational Institutions

4.1 Only such educational Institutions which maintain the laid down academic standards shall be covered under the scheme. The following conditions regarding the courses offered, performance of the institution, Aadhaar based attendance system are also required to be adhered to by the Institutions/Universities/Colleges in order to be eligible under the scheme:

i. Only Institutions/Colleges with the 'AISHE Code'/UDISE' Code' shall be eligible for the scholarship scheme. Based on the AISHE/UDISE-Code of the institution, all details of the institution such as - registration, affiliation and accreditation, courses being offered and number of seats approved for each course - will be pulled from the AISHE/UDISE server on to the scholarship portal automatically.

ii. All participating higher education institutions shall get NAAC/NBA accreditation before 2024, for continuation in the scheme from 2025-26 onwards.

iii. The scholarship benefits shall be linked with Aadhaar based attendance system. Therefore, the college/institution will maintain Aadhaar based attendance on a daily basis and will submit attendance details on the portal.

iv. The institutions will submit half-yearly self-audited reports to the State Governments in a prescribed format which shall be separately issued.

v. The institutions should be willing to honour the FREESHIP CARD issued by the State/District Authority through the scholarship portal and admit the student without insisting on pre-payment of the college/tuition fee or hostel fee. This would be paid by the student on release of the scholarship amount by the Government as per the provisions of this scheme. In this regard, the State Governments will coordinate with the institutions located in their respective States.

4.2 Scholarships will be given for the study of all recognized post-matriculation or post-secondary courses (Intermediate/Senior Secondary, Diploma, long-term Vocational Training Certificate, Graduate, Post Graduate courses etc.) pursued in recognized Institutions/ Universities/ Colleges falling in any of the following 9 categories:

i. Institutions of National Importance;

ii. Central University/ State University/ Autonomous colleges recognized by UGC and Universities /Colleges recognized under section 2(f) of UGC Act;

iii. Deemed Universities;

iv. All Private Universities recognized by State/Centre;

v. Private Professional Institutions affiliated to a recognized Central/State University and covered by a Fee Fixation Committee as mandated by Supreme Court;

vi. Recognized schools/colleges for Classes XI and class XII;

vii. Diploma granting Institutions as recognized by State/UT Governments;

viii. Vocational Training Institutes affiliated to National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT);

ix. Institutions affiliated/ approved by the appropriate bodies like NMC/AICTE etc. or any regulatory body established by State/UT/Centre.

Provided that where a particular number of seats for a particular course have been recognized / authorized by the concerned regulatory authority, the scholarships shall be restricted to those numbers and courses.

5. Conditions of Eligibility of Students

5.1 The scholarships are open to Nationals of India only.

5.2 Only those candidates who belong to Scheduled Castes so specified in relation to the State/Union Territory to which the applicant actually belongs /domiciled as determined by the State/UT and who have passed the Matriculation or Higher Secondary or any higher examination of a recognized University or Board of Secondary Education will be eligible.

5.3 Scholarships will be paid to the students whose parents'/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rupees Two lakh Fifty thousand only) during the last Financial Year. Income certificate is required to be taken once only i.e. at the time of admission only to courses which are continuing for more than one year. The income certificate shall be issued by the Authority as decided by the State Government.

5.4 The ceiling on age limit for admission as regular student in different classes should be decided by concerned Institutions.

5.5 Candidates who, after passing one stage of education are studying in the same stage of education in a different subject e.g. Intermediate Science after Intermediate Arts or B.Com after B.A. or M.A in one subject after M.A in other subjects will not be eligible.

5.6 Students, who pursue their studies through correspondence/online courses, are also eligible. The term correspondence includes distant and continuous education for courses in Central/ State Universities only. Non-refundable fees shall be paid and no academic allowance will be paid.

5.7 All the children of any parent/guardian will be entitled to receive benefits of the scheme.

5.8 A scholarship holder under this scheme will not hold any other scholarship/stipend. If awarded any other scholarship/stipend, the student can exercise his/her option for either of the two scholarships/stipends, whichever is more beneficial to him/her, and should inform the awarding authority through the Head of the Institution about the option made. No scholarship will be paid to the students under this scheme from the date he/she accepts another scholarship/stipend. The student can however, accept free lodging or a grant or ad-hoc monetary help from the State Government or any other source for the purchase of

books, equipment or for meeting the expenses on board and lodging in addition to the scholarship amount paid under this scheme.

5.9 All seats filled through arbitrary and non-transparent processes (including management quota, NRI quota, spot admissions etc.) without following the merit criteria as decided by the State Government are not eligible for these scholarships. The fees claimed against management quota seats, spot admission seat in any Institution /University will not be reimbursed. In case of any contradiction on the classification of seats or non-clarity on the classification of seats in the State/UT, the following criteria may be followed:

i) If there is no arbitrariness/ discretion in the admission process and the fee for the course is fixed by the Fee Fixation/Fee Rationalization committee set up by the competent authority, the said seats may not be considered as the Management Quota Seats. However, the State Governments may satisfy themselves of the following before release of scholarships:

i. That the applicants claiming the scholarship have been admitted through a transparent process which involved calling of applications through advertisements, preparation of ranks, selection of candidates on merit list, and publication of selection list and others as deemed fit by the State Government;

ii. That the fees for courses are duly approved by the Fee Fixation/Fee Rationalization Committee set up by the competent authority.

5.10 Students shall be encouraged to have Aadhaar linked Bank accounts to facilitate payments through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge.

6. Role of the State Governments

6.1 Although many SC students have availed benefits under this scheme and have occupied high positions in the society, still the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SCs in higher education (23.0%) lags behind the national average (27.0%). It is the endeavour of the Government to raise the GER of SCs in higher education from 23.0 % to the national average in the next five years. Similarly, the GER in Senior Secondary education of SCs has to increase from the current 56% to the national average in the next five years. Towards this end, special focus of the implementing agencies is required to achieve the goal.

6.2 All the SC students with annual income of up to Rs 2.50 lakh per annum would be eligible under the scheme. However, the State Government will additionally make special efforts to identify the poorest households from various sources and enroll the eligible students under the scheme in a mission mode. Further, these students would be monitored on regular basis so that they continue with their studies. Such students shall include (i) students from SC households with three or more deprivations as per SECC-2011 (ii) students from SC households where one or both the parents are illiterate and (iii) the students who have passed 10th standard from a State Government/ Municipality/Local Body school. In this regard, States/UTs will launch special campaigns to identify and cover such students.

6.3 States/UTs may adopt methodology suitable to the local conditions for identification of such students e.g. SC majority districts/blocks/villages may be taken first for identification of poorest students or students leaving class 10^{th}or 12^{th} class may be tracked in association with the education department or data emanating from other Central/State schemes indicating the dropouts rates or other sources as deemed fit. Every State Government shall undertake a campaign every year in March/April to identify such students and mentor them to enrol and avail scholarships. Such students will be helped for identification of courses also as per their skills.

6.4 Awareness drive shall be undertaken by the State Governments/UTs about the scheme through the Gram Panchayats Notice Boards, school committees, and discussions in the parent-teacher association meetings and other public awareness measures, in order to extend its coverage and also minimize any misuse by unscrupulous elements.

6.5 The States are required to take up identification of the students for fresh enrolment by taking up systematic drive covering all the higher secondary schools and encouraging the pupils who have dropped out after Class 12th to come back to higher education.

6.6 It is essential that the fresh enrolments to the extent possible are made in the courses which are having employment potential. For this purpose, the State may do an exercise in consultation with the Higher Education Department of the State Government, and the State Skill Mission for identifying courses which would improve the employment potential of the students. It is strongly advised that fresh enrolment may be made in these courses. Such skill courses should be long term courses with periodicity of at least 1 year and conducted by the institutions as per Para 4 of the scheme guidelines.

6.7. State Government will ensure that the beneficiary, at the time of admission, applies for the scholarship also. In this regard, the State Government may open facilitation centers

or nominate a nodal officer in the educational institutions so that the entry into the student database for renewals and fresh admissions can be done in a stipulated timeframe.

6.8 The State Governments shall put in place a scholarship portal that has all features as prescribed in para 13 of these guidelines and share the data on a real-time basis with the Central portal.

6.9 The State/Central Government shall have robust monitoring systems, including field inspections, social audits, data analytics etc. so that timely payments are made to eligible beneficiaries.

6.10 States/UTs shall ensure that Fee Rationalization/Fixation Committees are set up for all courses.

7. Components of the Scholarship

7.1 The scholarship includes the following components for the complete duration of the course:-

i. Compulsory non-refundable fees including tuition fee, as fixed by the Fee Fixation/Rationalization Committee of the State Government

ii. Academic allowance

Category of courses	**Yearly (in Rs)**	
	Hostellers	**Day Scholars**
Group 1: Degree and Post Graduate level professional courses	13500	7000
Group 2: Other Professional Courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate	9500	6500
Group 3: Graduate and Post Graduate courses not covered under Group I & Group II	6000	3000
Group 4: All post-matriculation (Post Class X level) non-degree courses	4000	2500

Note 1. Ten percent extra allowances shall be provided for Divyang students.

Note 2. Students pursuing C.A. /I.C.W.A. /C.S. /I.C.F.A. shall be treated as day scholars for the purpose of academic allowance. Students studying through correspondence/online courses shall not be eligible for academic allowance.

Note 3. The academic allowance as above shall be applicable from the year 2021-22. For the year 2020-21 the allowances as applicable under the earlier guidelines shall apply.

7.3 The Academic Allowance will be linked with the Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial workers. The Annual increment will be applicable w.e.f. April of each year and will be based on Index for the period January-December of the preceding year. The first revision would be applicable w.e.f. April, 2022 and in this regard Department will issue separate orders on Annual basis.

7.4 The State Governments may, if they so decide, top up the academic allowance from their own resources.

8. Freeship Card and process for issue

8.1 All eligible students shall be entitled to take admission in the institutions without pre-payment of tuition fees and hostel fees as per the Scheme Guidelines. To enable this, a FREESHIP CARD will be issued by the State Government to the eligible students, as per procedure detailed below. This Freeship card shall make the student eligible to study in the institution without pre-payment of the fees, and on the condition that as and when amount is released to the student's account, the institution would be intimated to collect the same from the student.

8.2 The student shall, well before the expected date of admission, register for issuance of a Freeship Card on the respective scholarship portal giving the details like the Aadhaar number, the name of the course in which he/she wants to take admission (e.g. MBBS, B.Sc., Class XI etc.) and an undertaking that the institution's charges would be paid within 7 working days from the date of receipt of the scholarship amount in his/her account. For the purpose of registration of Freeship Card, the portals shall remain open throughout the year.

8.3 The verification of the income, caste and merit details should be automatically done from the databases which are linked online for instant verification. The process should be entirely paperless. Until the above system is brought into effect, the documents may be scanned and uploaded which include: passport size photograph, copy of each of the certificates for diploma, degree etc. in respect of all examinations passed, Caste certificate duly signed by the authorized officer, valid Income certificate issued by the competent authority as prescribed by the State Govt. etc.

8.4 After the registration on the Portal, if the student is found eligible, all States/UTs will complete the verification process within 30 days from the receipt of the registration request from the students and issue the Freeship Card through the IT portal, mentioning the course

for which application is made so that the eligible students are not denied admissions due to delay in depositing tuition fees. It should be possible for the student to download the Free Ship Card from the portal itself. Once complete digitization of all the required certificates is done, such Freeship Card shall be automatically generated immediately on registration, if the student is found eligible.

8.5 The Freeship Card shall contain the details given in Annexure-1, and shall be digitally signed. For the purpose of admission, the Freeship card will remain valid for period of one year from the date of issue.

8.6 If a student wants to change his/her course before taking admission in an institution, he can do so by logging on IT portal and a fresh Freeship Card shall be issued automatically for all eligible students.

8.7 In case of renewal students, there shall be no need for fresh registration for the Freeship card and a card once issued to him/her shall be valid for the entire duration of the course.

9. Application for Scholarship and Verification

9.1 **Application-on-the-day-of-admission**: The institutions shall ensure that all students admitted to their institution and having Freeship Cards issued as detailed in para 8 of these Guidelines, apply on the IT portal for the scholarship **on the same day as the date of admission into the institution.**

9.2 On the day of admission itself, the institution shall verify on the scholarship portal that the student has taken admission in the institution with the same course as mentioned on the Free ship card and is now a bonafide student of the institution.

9.3. In case of renewal students, the student shall be auto-renewed based on the attendance and confirmation from the institution of the student having been promoted to the next class and having joined back the same course as hosteller/day scholar, as the case may be.

10. Funding Pattern of the Scheme

10.1 There will be a 60: 40 sharing ratio between the Centre and States (90:10 in case of North Eastern States) of the average demand for the scheme for three year period 2017-18 to 2019-20 (to be considered as the base period), with a 5% overall annual increase each

year in the Central assistance for all States put together in absolute terms w.r.t. base period. The above shall be applicable from 2020-21 onwards and the scheme will be continued upto the financial year 2025-26.

10.2 Thus, for the purpose of determining the demand for the year 2020-21, the average demand of 2017-18 to 2019-20, or the actual demand for 2020-21, whichever is lesser, will be considered for each State/UT. For subsequent years i.e. 2021-22 & onwards, the Central assistance for all States put together will be limited by a 5% annual increase over the average demand for the scheme for the base period of 2017-18 to 2019-20, which shall be ensured by the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) while appraising the States' Annual Action Plans. The Ministry will have the flexibility of adjusting the allocation of funds between the States subject to the total allocation approved, without disrupting the 60:40 sharing ratio between the Centre and the States.

10.3 If the total fund requirement is over and above the annual 5% limit, the central share will be limited to that and the additional requirement of funds, if any, shall be met by the State Governments from their own resources.

10.3. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implementing the scheme will maintain the data of all the beneficiaries on their online portal and will distinctly mention the amount of scholarship under various components as mentioned in the Scheme.

11. Payment Mechanism

11.1 The entire scholarship amount - both from the State and Central Government - including the tuition fees, academic allowance and any other admissible allowance will be paid directly into the account of the students **ONLY through DBT** preferably through an Aadhaar Based Payment System (Aadhaar Payment Bridge) from 2021-22. The States shall preferably release the payments through PFMS System so that the accounts of the students are not required to be validated again.

11.2 Starting from 2021-22, the Central share in the scheme would also be released on DBT mode directly into the bank accounts of the students, after ensuring that the concerned State Government has released their share.

11.3 All the States/UTs/Centre would adhere to the following timelines for processing of the applications and release of scholarship amounts:

- The scholarship portals would remain open throughout the year so that all eligible students can register for the Freeship Card and apply for the scholarships.
- Disbursal of scholarships for all applications (fresh/renewals) shall be made in one instalment as per the following schedule:

Dates of receiving of applications	Date by which State share (40%; 10% in case of NE States) should be released	Date by which Central share (60%; 90% in case of NE States) should be released
From 1st April to 31st July	15th August	30th August
From 1st August to 30th November	30th December	26th January
From 1st December to 31st January*	28th February	15th March
From 1st February to 31st March*	With 75 days of application	Within 90 days of application

*Portal shall remain open only for submission of applications for scholarships for courses where admission is after November.

11.4 There shall be no delays in payment of the scholarships. For this purpose the State shall ensure that their installments are disbursed to the students by the timelines defined in previous para so that the Central share can also be released in time.

11.5 The Ministry of Social Justice vide notification number 428 dated Feb,16,2017 has notified Aadhaar as identity document under Section 7 of Aadhaar Act 2016 for all Scholarship Schemes w.e.f. 16th February 2017.

11.6 The authentication through Aadhaar would be compulsory at the time of renewals, if not provided earlier at the time of admission.

12. Duration and Renewal of Awards

12.1 The award once made will be payable up to the completion of the course subject to satisfactory academic performance and attendance of 75% in every academic year. The attendance will be verified through Aadhaar based attendance System.

12.2 If a scholar is unable to appear in the annual examination owing to illness, the award may be renewed subject to production of medical certificate from prescribed authority and acceptance of the same by institution /college.

12.3 If, according to the Regulations of a University/Institution, a student is promoted to the next higher class even though he/she may not have actually passed in lower class and is

required to take examination of the junior class again after sometime, he/she will be entitled to scholarship for the class to which he/she is promoted if the student is otherwise eligible for scholarship. Further, in case a student fails in any class and then again joins the same class as a regular student, he/she will be eligible for scholarship for one additional year or the actual period, .whichever is lower.

13. IT Framework

13.1. The scheme shall be run on an online platform with robust cyber security measures that would assure transparency, accountability, efficiency, and timely delivery of the assistance without any delays. The National Scholarship Portal (NSP) would be suitably modified for this purpose.

13.2. If any State is already a running online portal that fulfils all the laid down parameters, they can continue with it, but share the data on real-time basis to the National Scholarship Portal or any other portal as specified by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment in due course through instructions for enabling constant monitoring. Therefore, all States/UTs implementing the scheme will migrate to online processing of disbursal of scholarships, where not already done. The scholarship portal should mandatorily have the following features:

a) The IT portal shall be integrated with the AISHE/UDISE portal for pulling the data about the institution in which the student has taken admission.
b) At the time of registration for Freeship Card, every student should provide an Aadhaar ID/Aadhaar EID and other alternative form of ID as per this Ministry's notification no. 428 dated 16.02.2017 which will enable elimination of duplication and false claims. The Aadhaar authentication is mandatory in case of renewals, if not provided at the time of admission. The Aadhaar number entered by the students should go through demo-auth on real-time basis before allowing entry into the registration portal.
c) The States shall undertake fool-proof verification of the eligibility, caste status, Aadhaar identification and bank account details on the online portal.
d) There shall be no upload of any documents or any certificates into the system. All data should be auto-verified by linking databases through digilocker or any such

mechanism, such as (i) school boards' results, including the CBSE/ICSE along with the certificates maintained by them; (ii) database of income certificates, domicile and caste certificates issued by State/District Administration and (iii) databases maintained by the Universities and Colleges, using Aadhaar number as the link.

e) All verification process of the students should be done using the above authenticated databases automatically using the digital process with little or no manual intervention. There should be no system of verification by the institutions or even the district level officers. Till such time such a system is put in place, the manual verification shall be completed within 30 days from the date of application, with a provision for 'presumed approval' if the same is not completed within 30 days.

f) A suitable system will be put in place for taking Aadhaar based attendance system which is non-intrusive and automatic. Till such a system is finalized by the Central Govt., the institution shall upload the attendance of the scholarship holder every month in the Attendance module that would be developed in the IT system.

g) There shall be no system of calling for the bank account details of the students and authenticating it. All payments should preferably go through Aadhaar Based Payment System (APB – Aadhaar Payment Bridge) after checking the Aadhaar number with the NPCI mapper.

h) The renewals should be automatic based on promotion to the next class and having the required attendance, subject to confirmation of the student having joined back the same course as hosteller/day scholar, as the case may be. There should not be any requirement for the student to apply for renewals.

i) A performance module to monitor the progress of student as well as performance of the institution should be suitably designed and incorporated.

j) Apart from this, the States shall maintain a complete database of the beneficiaries under various other scholarship schemes to ensure de-duplication of the beneficiaries.

k) The portal shall incorporate an online grievance redressal mechanism linking all the authorities responsible for implementation on the scholarship portal.

l) There shall be a provision indicating the students of the poorest households, as per the parameters provided under the Scheme, selected for scholarship.

m) The portal will make arrangements so that the students, once declared blacklisted, may not be able to apply for scholarship again.

14. Annual Action Plan

14.1 Every participating State/UT, on or before 28th February of the preceding year, will prepare a State level Annual Plan for the PMS-SC scheme. In case the State has any other initiative on similar lines to PMS-SC, this may be mentioned separately in the Action Plan. The Action Plan should give clearly the targets, eligibility, proposed coverage separately for poorest households, processes for identification, identification of courses having employment potential, systems for monitoring etc.

14.2 The Department will constitute an Project Appraisal Committee to appraise and approve the Annual Action Plans. These plans would be appraised at the Centre and the outlay for each State would be finalized before 15th April, of every year as per the annual increase indicated under the funding pattern. The constitution of the committee will be informed through separate instructions.

15. Performance of the States/UTs

15.1 The performance of the States/UTs would be measured annually on certain parameters like (i) payments as per the given time schedule (ii) coverage from the poorest households (iii) academic outcomes of the scholarship-holders (iv) Implementation of Aadhaar based attendance (v) Digitization of various certificates required for determining eligibility etc.

15.2. The States/UTs would be ranked on the above parameters and top performing States will be awarded. The details in this regard will be prepared after consultations, and will be shared through instructions in due course.

16. Announcement of the Scheme by States/UTs

16.1 All the State Governments/UT Administrations will announce starting from April, the details of the Scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in the leading newspapers of the State and through their respective websites/ Scholarship portals and other modes of media. The applicant should submit the completed application to the prescribed authority on the portal specified for this purpose before the last date prescribed for receipt of applications.

17. Process of Registration and Application for the student

17.1 The student shall, well before the expected date of admission, register on the online on scholarship portal for issue of a Freeship Card as detailed in Para 8.2 of these Guidelines.

17.2 On admission to the institution to a course mentioned in the Freeship Card, the student shall apply, on the day of the admission itself, for scholarship, giving details of the Freeship card and the course and institution admitted to.

17.3 Students continuing their courses for which they have already been sanctioned scholarship in the previous year, i.e. renewal students, shall, be automatically renewed for scholarship as detailed in para 8.7.

18. Evaluation/Social Audit and follow up action

18.1. There shall be thorough evaluation of the outcomes of the scheme in regular intervals to ascertain the effectiveness of scheme implementation and for tracking the progress of the students. This may include conduct of social audits once a year, annual third-party evaluation, and half-yearly self-audited reports from each institution.

18.2. The social audits are to be conducted by the Social Audit Units of the State Governments formed by the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India duly meeting the cost from the administrative cost of the scheme.

18.3. The State Government shall also set up a robust monitoring mechanism for monitoring the academic progress of the students enrolled to the scheme.

18.4. The students who are found to be lagging behind should be provided remedial coaching so that their academic outcome shall not be less than the average academic outcomes. The State Action Plan should contain clear provisions for this.

18.5. In order to ensure proper accountability, physical verifications at various levels viz. Block/District/State levels shall be done by the States/UTs covering at least 10% of the institutions/students, chosen randomly through an algorithm. All private institutions offering courses at the level of graduation or above shall, however, be mandatorily inspected annually.

19. Administrative Charges

19.1. The administrative cost for administration, monitoring and evaluation shall be limited to 1% of the annual outlay.

19.2. Each State/UT shall project the requirement of funds for undertaking the monitoring of the implementation, in its Annual Action Plan. In case, funds are required for Book,

these may be indicated under the Administrative charges. This would be considered by the PAC, ensuring that the total outflow on this count does not exceed 1% of the annual outlay.

19.3. The PAC shall give first priority in approving administrative charges for development of IT infrastructure, setting up of Technical Support Group cum Project Monitoring Unit at the Central/State level and social audits.

20. Mechanism for redressal of grievances

20.1. There shall be an online grievance redressal mechanism linking all the authorities responsible for implementation on the scholarship portal.

20.2. The student shall be able to lodge a grievance either through the portal or by a mobile app.

20.3. Every institution shall have a Grievance Redressal Officer (GRO) who is responsible for entertaining the grievances and resolving them by following up with the appropriate authority.

20.4. The non-resolution of the grievance at the institution level in a given time frame shall automatically be escalated to the district and later to the State level for resolution.

21. Other Conditions for the Award

21.1. If a student is found to have obtained a scholarship by false statements, his/ her scholarship will be cancelled forthwith and the amount of the scholarship paid will be recovered, at the discretion of the concerned State Government. The student concerned will be blacklisted and debarred for scholarship in any scheme forever.

21.2. A scholarship awarded may be cancelled if the scholar changes the subject of the course of study for which the scholarship was originally awarded or changes the institution of study, without prior approval of the State Government. The Head of the Institution shall report such cases to the State which will stop payment of the scholarship money. The amount already paid may also be recovered at the discretion of the State Government.

21.3. A scholar is liable to refund the scholarship amount at the discretion of the State Government, if during the course of the year, the studies for which the scholarship has been awarded, is discontinued by him/her.

21.4. The provisions of this scheme can be changed at any time at the discretion of the Government of India.

****

Annexure-I

The following important parameters should be contained in the FREE SHIP CARD

Name of the Student

Student's ID on the portal

Fathers' Name-

Aadhaar Card Number-

Caste

Date of Birth

Annual Family income

Domicile State-

Address of the Student

Course (in which admission is sought)-

Duration of Course-

Class (presently studying)-

Class (Last class previously studied)-

Major provisions of the scheme

Student's undertaking to reimburse the amount to institution within 7 days after receipt of scholarship